

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 /065 W

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R 121403Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7015

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

CINCUSNAVEUR

USCINCEUR

USCINCLANT

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 5792

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MPOL, NATO, NL, GW

SUBJ: DUTCH AND GERMANS LOOK AT SPECIALIZATION POSSIBILITIES

1. DURING NOV 5 EUROGROUP MEETING IN THE HAGUE, DUTCH AND FRG
DEFMINS INFORMALLY DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF SWAPPING NATO-ASSIGNED
TASKS AS A WAY TO BETTER UTILIZE AVAILABLE RESOURCES. STORY
BROKE IN DUTCH PRESS NOV 11 WITH IMPLICATION THAT VREDELING-
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LEBER DISCUSSION OF SUBJECT REPRESENTED DECISION TO MOVE AHEAD

POSSIBLY ON EXCHANGE OF TASKS--GON TO TAKE OVER FRG NAVAL PATROL ACTIVITIES IN EXCHANGE FOR FRG ASSUMPTION OF SOME DUTCH ARMY AND AIR FORCE ASSIGNMENTS IN CENTRAL REGION.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, TWO MINISTERS EXPLORED IDEA OF DUTCH (AND UK) EVENTUALLY ASSUMING FRG NORTH ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA MARITIME PATROL ACTIVITIES. CONSERVATIVE "DE TELEGRAAF" REPORTS THAT IDEA WAS BROACHED BY FRG DEFMIN LEBER AND THAT PLAN WOULD RESULT IN DUTCH NAVY ACQUIRING FOUR TO EIGHT ADDITIONAL FRIGATES. FRG WOULD, IN RETURN, TAKE OVER AN "IMPORTANT PART" OF DUTCH ARMY ASSIGNMENTS.

3. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY A NATO DIVISION OFFICIAL IN MFA THAT DISCUSSION DID TAKE PLACE, BUT THAT IT NOT CLEAR TO MFA AT MOMENT WHAT EXACTLY WAS INVOLVED. APPARENTLY DISCUSSION WAS INITIATED BY VREDELING, WHO HAS LONG BEEN IN FAVOR OF GREATER SPECIALIZATION IN NATO, OVER LUNCH. OUR SOURCE SAYS THAT DECISION TO RAISE MATTER WAS VREDELING'S ALONE, AND WAS NOT STAFFED OUT IN ADVANCE IN MOD OR MFA. MFA, IN FACT, FIRST HEARD OF DISCUSSIONS VIA ITS AMBASSADOR IN BONN WHO HAD BEEN QUERIED ON SUBJECT BY FRG STATE SECRETARY MANN. (MANN AND DUTCH STATE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE STEMERDINK ARE SCHEDULED HOLD FOLLOW-UP TALKS ON SUBJECT NEXT WEEK).

4. WE PLAN CHECK MATTER OUT FURTHER. AT PRESENT IT LOOKS AS IF THIS IS MORE AN INDICATION OF VREDELING'S PERSONAL RESTIVENESS ON ISSUE KNOWN TO BE FOREMOST ON HIS MIND THAN OF MOVE TOWARD FAR-REACHING VISIONS OF RATIONALIZATION. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN BONN'S COMMENTS.
GOULD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COLLECTIVE SECURITY, MILITARY POLICIES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975THEHA05792
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750394-0102
From: THE HAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751152/aaaabuzv.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <29 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DUTCH AND GERMANS LOOK AT SPECIALIZATION POSSIBILITIES
TAGS: MARR, MPOL, NL, GE, NATO, (LEBER, GEORG), (VREDELING, HENDRIKUS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006